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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/00492 (22) International Filing Date: 16 February 2000 (16.02.00) (30) Priority Data: 9903697.2 19 February 1999 (19.02.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): P C MULTI-MEDIA LIMITED [GB/GB]; 33 Argyle Street, South Bank, York YO23 1DW (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TURNER, Michael [GB/GB]; 22 Thorpe Street, Scarcroft Road, York YO10 1NL (GB). ZANELLI, Paul [GB/GB]; 33 Argyle Street, South Bank, York YO23 1DW (GB). MOSS, Simon [GB/GB]; 22 Thorpe Street, Scarcroft Road, York YO10 1NL (GB). (74) Agent: STUTTARD, Garry, Philip; Urquhart-Dykes & Lord, Tower House, Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8PA (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: MATCHING ENGINE (57) Abstract A method of identifying the best matches or sets of matches between a query item and an item or items from a data set. The method includes the steps of: (i) providing a data representation for each item in the data set; (ii) providing a query representation of the query item; (iii) defining a transformation space; (iv) for each of a number of regions spanning the entire transformation space, determining an upper bound to the probability of a match between the query representation and a data representation under any transformation in the region; (v) determining a threshold probability; (vi) comparing the upper probability bound of each region with the threshold probability; and (vii) determining regions having an upper probability bound greater than the threshold probability, so as to identify solution regions.		